

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK, UR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: UN ENTRY OF TWO GERMANY: CLAIMS STATEMENT

1. IN AUGUST 22 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, SAUL KAGAN, SPECIAL CONSULTANT FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AND TEN REPS OF AFFILIATED GROUPS REQUESTED US GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN ASSISTING ORGANIZATION OBTAIN COMPENSATION FROM GDR FOR VICTIMS OF NAZISM. CONFERENCE STATED ITS WILLINGNESS ENTER INTO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR BUT NEEDED ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. KAGAN STATED THAT CONFERENCE WOULD

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BE MAKING SIMILAR REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT TO OTHER FRIENDLY

GOVERNMENTS.

2. AS ADDRESSEES WILL BE AWARE, CONFERENCE NEGOTIATED DIRECTLY WITH FRG IN 1952 AND UNDER RESULTING AGREEMENT FRG INTER ALIA MADE GLOBAL PAYMENT OF 450 MILLION DM FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION VICTIMS OF NAZISM LIVING OUTSIDE ISRAEL. PAYMENT WAS RECOGNIZED CONSTITUTING ONLY 2/3 OF TOTAL SUM SINCE FRG CONTROLLED ONLY 2/3 OF GERMAN TERRITORY. CLEAR UNDERSTANDING EXISTED ON BOTH SIDES THAT LAST THIRD OF PAYMENT RELATED TO TERRITORY OF EAST GERMANY. IN ADDITION, PAYMENTS UNDER LARGE SCALE COMPENSATION PROGRAM CARRIED OUT BY FRG UNDER SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO INDIVIDUAL NAZI VICTIMS WERE VIEWED AS PARTIAL, TO BE

ULTIMATELY SUPPLEMENTED BY EAST GERMANY. THE CONFERENCE WILL SEEK A GLOBAL PAYMENT FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF SHORTFALL REGARDING JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZISM.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED KAGAN THAT USG SYMPATHETIC WITH CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND WILL DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. CONFERENCE HAS NOW ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT IT INTENDS SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH GDR FONMIN WINZER DURING FORTHCOMING UNGA TO DISCUSS EAST GERMAN CLAIMS PROBLEMS AND ARRANGE SUBSEQUENT MEETING BETWEEN NAHUM GOLDMANN, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, AND HONECKER. CONFERENCE HAS ASKED WHETHER DEPARTMENT CAN PAVE WAY FOR SUCH REQUEST BY MENTIONING TO APPROPRIATE GDR OBSERVER MISSION OFFICER THAT CONFERENCE WILL BE IN TOUCH IN NEAR FUTURE AND THAT CONFERENCE IS RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN CLAIMS FIELD SINCE EARLY 1950S. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT CALL BY USUN TO HUCKE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OBSERVER MISSION OFFICER WOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE STEP AT THIS STAGE.

4. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES FORTHCOMING UNGA ALSO PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ON RECORD IN BROADER MULTILATERAL FORUM GENERALIZED US STATEMENT SUPPORTING CONCEPT OF GDR COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS OF NAZIS. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE INCLUDE IN USG WELCOMING REMARKS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL REFERENCE TO DESIRABILITY OF GDR, AS SUCCESSOR STATE TO GERMAN REICH, TO COMPENSATE IN ADEQUATE MANNER THOSE WHO SUFFERED UNDER NAZIS. STATEMENT WOULD BE COUPLED WITH COMPLIMENTARY REFERENCE TO FORTHCOMING POSITION FRG HAS ADOPTED IN COMPENSATION FIELD.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR EMBASSY BONN: YOU SHOULD NOTIFY BONN GROUP OF US INTENTIONS AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER

UK AND FRENCH WILLING TO TAKE PARALLEL ACTION.
FOR USUN: YOU SHOULD MAKE APPROACH SUGGESTED PARA 3 AND
REPORT GDR REACTION. RUSH

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